

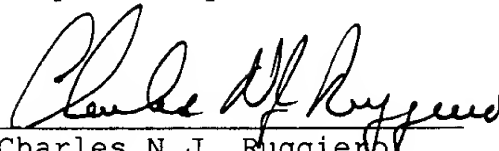
Claim 4;  
Claim 5;  
Claim 6;  
Claim 8;  
Claim 10; or  
Claims 11, 12, 17 and 20.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement because each of the species, as set forth above, are variants of non-absorbent fibers and absorbent fibers known to those skilled in the art of tampons. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of this application can be made without serious burden on the Patent Office.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, to comply fully with the restriction requirement, Applicants elect with traverse to prosecute the species of claims 11, 12, 17 and 20. The claims readable on the elected species are as follows: Claims 1 through 3, 7, 9, and 11 through 20.

December 6, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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